

Patent Application of
Steven S. Ibara, Crystal G. Steinke, Joel H. Jones,
Vicky Greenbaum, Woodley Packard, and Elisa Jones
for

TITLE: PAGE HOLDER ENABLING UNENCUMBERED MANUAL PAGE TURNING

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS: Not Applicable

FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH: Not Applicable

SEQUENCE LISTING OR PROGRAM: Not Applicable

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION—FIELD OF INVENTION

This invention relates to book holders, specifically to an improved page holder.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION—DISCUSSION OF PRIOR ART

For centuries, musicians have struggled with their sheet music. The battle to keep loose-leaf pages on the music stand and the pages of bound books open is a distraction that perpetuates to this day. Beyond the music field, this dilemma extends to public readings, ceremonies, and presentations. Many solutions have been proposed, but all have been problematic. All previously known counterparts require some sort of adjustment to permit page turning (including those that state otherwise). In every case, the page holder must be released and subsequently secured when a

page is turned. This leaves the remaining pages vulnerable (e.g., to the wind) during the page turn, until the holder is replaced. Especially during a musical performance, anxiety over turning pages and securing the page holder threatens the quality and enjoyment of that performance. This is particularly true in the frequent cases when a quick page turn is necessary, and the problem is compounded by the fact that the musician usually has only one hand readily (and briefly) available.

Previously known page holders are dependent upon other hardware. This increases their cost and makes them cumbersome and ungainly. Their complexity requires undue time and effort to set up and operate. They are difficult to package, market, and distribute. They can only be used in certain settings, and are not easily adaptable for different materials and uses.

A plurality of page holders utilize a retaining line or strip, such as U.S. Pat. No. 4,978,096 to Struckmann (1990) and U.S. Pat. No. 5,377,946 to Pannu (1995). None provides a separate and independent device which can attach to various music holders, book holders, or loose-leaf page holders of varying design, material, and thickness. Furthermore, among the myriad of book holders, easels, copy holders, etc.—with their panels, clips, clamps, and bands—there has never been a solution to hold pages in place that does not interfere with page turning.

The problem has not been solved because it seems inconceivable that a device could exist which allows the user, but not the wind, to turn the page. Such a solution is long-overdue.

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION—OBJECTS AND ADVANTAGES

Accordingly, several objects and advantages of our invention are to provide a page holder which is more simple, operable, lightweight, compact, and portable than any previously known counterpart. Our page holder is attractive and inexpensive; it is easy to package, market, and distribute. It is more convenient and expedient, producing a higher quality result than anything used before: it allows the user to simply turn the page, requiring no further action.

Our page holder provides the musician with greater confidence, knowing that the music is secure, but can be turned in a moment. The remaining pages require no further division of

concentration, since they are automatically retained throughout the page turn. This allows the musician to relax and focus on performing. Our page holder can be stored in a few inches of an instrument case or accessory bag. Its versatility makes it easily adaptable to any setting, as it can be integrated or used in conjunction with existing hardware (such as binders, easels, music stands, book holders, clipboards, etc.). This compatibility has the added advantage of not wasting a user's previous purchase of such hardware.

Other objects and advantages are to provide a reliable page holder whose universal application transcends geographic and cultural boundaries, and which requires minimal change in production facilities. Because this device solves an existing, long-felt need, it can be readily put into practice by an eager market, and requires little or no learning to utilize.

Further objects and advantages of our invention will become apparent from a consideration of the drawings and ensuing description.

SUMMARY

In accordance with the present invention a page holder comprises a clamp bonded to a self-retracting reel, which exerts a tension between approximately 0.05 N (0.2 oz) and 0.6 N (2 oz). A retaining line is extracted from the reel and is attached to a second clamp.

DRAWINGS—FIGURES

Fig 1 is a perspective view of our invention.

Fig 2 is a view of two parallel units to compensate for moderate wind.

Fig 3 is a view of two diagonal units to compensate for high wind.

Fig 4 is a view of our invention applied to a clipboard.

Fig 5 is a view of our invention applied directly to a book.

Fig 6 is a view of an alternate tensioning mechanism.

DRAWINGS—Reference Numerals

10R right clamp	10L left clamp
11R weighted right clamp	11L weighted left clamp
12R rubber teeth	12L rubber teeth
13R magnet	13L magnet
14 self-retracting reel	15 hole
16 tension adjustment dial	16A alternate tension dial
17 support	18 monofilament
19 reading matter	19A varying lengths of paper
19B book	20 clipboard
22 alternate reel	24 rubber band

DETAILED DESCRIPTION—Fig 1—Preferred Embodiment

Fig 1 shows a perspective view of a basic version of our page holder. A clamp **10R** has rubber teeth **12R**. A self-retracting reel **14** (a known device, utilized in several fields) is glued, welded, or bonded in any suitable fashion to clamp **10R**. The reel **14** has a tension adjustment dial **16** at its lower end.

The reel **14** dispenses a monofilament **18**, which extends across the reading matter **19** and is knotted, glued, thermally bonded, or otherwise attached to a second clamp **10L**. The clamp **10L** also has rubber teeth **12L**.

The clamps **10R** and **10L** can be made of metal, plastic, wood, or any suitable material. They can be approximately 5 cm (2 in) square. The rubber teeth **12R** and **12L** protect delicate surfaces, and prevent slippage on irregular surfaces such as music stands comprising thin, flat, metal bands.

The reel **14** can be made from metal or plastic, and in the preferred embodiment utilizes a metal spring. The casing can be approximately 3 cm (1.25 in) in diameter, and about 1 cm (0.5 in)

thick. The reel **14** has a tension adjustable between approximately 0.05 N (0.2 oz) and 0.6 N (2 oz). This specific range holds the reading matter **19** in place, while allowing the user to turn the page against the monofilament **18** without damaging the reading matter **19**. The tension can be varied by either increasing or decreasing the friction (drag) on the monofilament **18**, or tightening/loosening the spring.

In the preferred embodiment, the monofilament **18** is made from 15-pound polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF, or “Fluorocarbon”), such as that used in fishing line. PVDF is smoother and less refractive than ordinary monofilaments. Heavier-weight line is usable but less efficient, being more visually distracting, and requiring more space on the reel **14**. Lighter weights can introduce threat of incision to the page’s edge. The monofilament **18** could be approximately 1-1.5 m (3-5 ft) long.

The monofilament **18** is passed through a hole **15** (with a protective grommet or eyelet, not shown) drilled in metal clamp **10L** and knotted, glued, or otherwise attached inside the clamp **10L**. In the preferred embodiment, the clamps **10L** and **10R** can be compactly stored together with magnets **13L** and **13R** (shown here glued to the backs of clamps **10L** and **10R**) or other attaching components, or simply clamped together.

Operation

The manner of securing reading matter **19** with the page holder is exceedingly simple. The user attaches the clamp **10R** to the right edge of the music stand, binder, easel, or other support **17** for reading matter **19**. The user pulls the clamp **10L** across the reading matter **19**, extracting the monofilament **18** from the reel **14**. The user then attaches the clamp **10L** to the left edge of the support **17**.

When a page is to be turned, the user simply grasps the page and turns it normally, exerting slight force to overcome the gentle tension of the reel **14**. The page glides smoothly across the monofilament **18** as the reel **14** dispenses additional length to allow the page to turn. The monofilament **18** continues to provide retention at the edges of the remaining pages throughout the

page turn. The reel **14** retracts automatically to secure the monofilament **18** across the pages in unison with the completion of the page turn.

Use of the lowest tension setting is most comfortable for the user, since it provides the least amount of resistance against the page. Use of low settings is also necessary for very thin pages, such as a minister’s Bible at an outdoor wedding or funeral. (Particularly fragile pages can be turned under the edge of the monofilament **18** and “peeled” across to complete the page turn. Also, loose-leaf pages can be inserted into plastic sheet protectors, which will not interfere with the page holder’s operation.) However, outdoor wind conditions frequently place the user at the mercy of unpredictable gusts. In the event of increasingly windy conditions, the user can quickly increase the retaining power of the device by turning the dial **16**. This is located at the lower end of the reel **14**, since the user’s hands are usually below the reading matter **19**. Our page holder’s tension range does not exceed 0.6 N (2 oz)—since beyond that force, there is a tendency for the monofilament **18** to crush the page.

After use, the clamps **10L** and **10R** are detached from the support **17**, and the reel **14** automatically stores the monofilament **18**. The clamps **10L** and **10R** are secured to one another with magnets **13L** and **13R** or other attaching components, or simply clamped together.

Description and Operation of Alternative Embodiments—Figs 2-6

Fig 2—Description of Two Parallel Units

When wind is strong enough to bend the pages’ corners toward the center, two units may be placed along the top and bottom of the reading matter **19**. The page is still turned normally. When two units are utilized, lower tension settings may be selected.

Fig 3—Description of Two Diagonal Units

A very strong wind can lift the middle of a page like a sail, pulling it out from the parallel units on top and bottom (Fig 2). When conditions merit, two units may be placed diagonally across the reading matter **19**. The page is still turned normally, and as conditions allow, the use of two units might permit a lower tension setting.

Fig 4—Description of the Device Applied to a Clipboard

Use with a clipboard **20** presents the unique challenge of retaining the page, but allowing it to turn and to wrap over and around the top of the board **20**. By placing the clamp **10R** with the reel **14** at the base of the board **20** toward the right (this would best suit a right-handed user), the monofilament **18** can be extended diagonally up and left across the page. Placement of clamp **10L** on the left side of the board **20**, near the top, permits the page to be turned against, and eventually free of, the monofilament **18**. The user can then wrap the page over and around the top of the board **20**. If desirable, an optional component (not shown) to retain the wrapped pages against the back of the board **20** can be added.

Our page holder brings to the clipboard the distinct advantage of effective retention of varying lengths of paper **19A**, even in combination. This embodiment can be manifested as a clipboard integrated with our page holder, or our device can be readily applied to an existing clipboard.

Fig 5—Description of the Device Applied Directly to a Book

The page holder can be placed directly on the covers of a hardcover or softcover book **19B**. The clamps **11L** and **11R** are weighted to hold the bound book **19B** open. This allows for hands-free reading in any setting. An alternative embodiment could include a support member across the back of the book (not shown). Our page holder can also be applied to any existing book holder.

Fig 6—Description of an Alternate Reel Mechanism

Instead of a spring-biased reel, our page holder can also function using a reel **22** tensioned by means of a rubber band **24**, a braided elastic band, or similar material. Tension is still increased by turning the tension adjustment dial **16a**.

Conclusion, Ramifications, and Scope

Thus the reader will see that the page holder of the invention provides a highly reliable, compact, versatile, ingenious, yet economical device that can be used by students and professionals alike.

While our above description contains many specificities, these should not be construed as limitations on the scope of the invention, but rather as an exemplification of one preferred embodiment thereof. Many other variations are possible. For example, the page holder can be integrated with or used in combination with any existing book holder, easel, copy holder, etc. The number of units, or components thereof, can be increased or decreased.

“Reading matter” can be construed as books, newspapers, sheet music, photographs—any such material for viewing.

The clamps can be made from other materials such as plastic—and thus the clamps and reel casing can be molded as one piece; the clamps can be made in different colors, sizes, gripping capacities, strengths, and weights; and can be attached together in any suitable fashion for storage. Other methods can be used to attach the page holder, such as suction cups (e.g., on a polished wood piano or organ).

The reel casing can be made of metal, plastic, or any suitable material; and can be produced in various sizes or colors (including clear). The number of reels can be increased—such as an additional reel on the left side for greater ease if the reading matter is to be turned back and forth frequently. Any tensioning device which produces the proper range of force can function—

including a hanging weight in place of a reel. The tension range can be increased to accommodate heavier reading matter. The reel can have a static tension, such as 0.6 N (2 oz), and not be adjustable. A ratcheting reel can be introduced, mounted to the left clamp (or other suitable place), to take up the slack of the monofilament for storage, e.g., at the push of a button.

The tension adjustment dial can alternatively be positioned on the face, side, or other surface of the reel. The tension can also be adjusted by a button, lever, knob, or other suitable hardware.

The monofilament can be a strand, cord, or band of any material that does not present threat of incision to the page's edge, or friction prohibitive of page turning. It can be made in varying thickness and weight to accommodate different reading materials. The monofilament can be made in any length to suit the device's application—such as 1.5 m (about 5 ft) to accommodate several sheets of music along a piano or organ.

The application of the page holder to a clipboard can be expanded to further retain the pages that have been turned up and wrapped behind the board.

Accordingly, the scope of the invention should be determined not by the embodiments illustrated, but by the appended claims and their legal equivalents.